

MANITOBA

OPINIONS
OF
EMINENT MEN

1892

Printed

"I venture to say in no country will they (the people of the United Kingdom) find better opportunities for profitable work, investment, and settlement than in Manitoba."—

SIR GEORGE BADEN-POWELL, M.P.

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MANITOBA.

OPINIONS OF EMINENT MEN

AND

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF THE
FARMERS' DELEGATES.

ISSUED FROM

THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

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—
1892.

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Within recent years a large number of well-known men and women from Great Britain and Ireland and other parts of the World have visited Manitoba.

Many of these visitors from the United Kingdom are individuals whose names are household words at home, and their opinions, herein expressed should have great weight with intending Emigrants.



MANITOBA.

DURING the Spring and Summer months of 1892 there is likely to be a large movement of population from the "old country" to other and newer lands, where the competition for a living is less fierce than it is at home, and where, on account of more rapid developments, the chances of success are so much greater.

England's greatest colony is Canada. England's nearest colony is Canada. England's best colony is Canada. Such, at any rate, is the opinion of many well-known travellers.

Canada is divided into seven Provinces, and no part of the Dominion is progressing so rapidly as the Province of Manitoba. It has to-day a population of about 160,000, showing an increase during the decade 1881-91 of nearly 150 per cent. Twenty years ago it was an unknown country, inaccessible to the ordinary traveller. To-day Manitoba has within its borders about 1,500 miles of railway, and tributary to it there are some 3,000 miles. Not only are there competing lines running from Manitoba to all parts of the Continent, but one of the chief features of railway development in recent years has been the building of branch lines through most of the settled parts of the country, so that very few settlers are now any considerable distance from a railway.

There are towns and villages scattered throughout the country where all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life are obtainable at prices in some cases lower, and in other cases not much in excess of those paid in England.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS are met with all over the country.

EXCELLENT MARKETS, for the sale of grain and other produce, are to be found in the various towns and villages, and at the railroad stations. Wheat, oats, and barley are produced in very large quantities, and are eagerly sought after by buyers for export to Eastern Canada and Europe, where Manitoba grain, on account of its superior quality, brings a higher price than that of almost any other country. Large numbers of Manitoba cattle are now annually shipped to England and Scotland. Mixed farming is also extensively practised, and nearly every agricultural product of the United Kingdom is grown in Manitoba.

WONDERFUL HARVEST OF 1891.—The yield is something astonishing. In 1891 over 1,300,000 acres of land was under crop, of which 916,000 was wheat. The harvest was the largest on record. In many cases the wheat yielded 30, 35, 40 and 45 bushels per acre, and in some cases even higher yields are reported. On account of the immense yield, probably not one-half the crop is yet [January] threshed. It is estimated the total yield of cereals will amount to about 45,000,000 bushels. Considering that within the last decade produce was imported into that country, this development is truly marvellous. Within the last five years the area of land brought under cultivation has doubled, and it is still rapidly increasing.

LAND can be obtained in various ways. In some parts there are free grants of 160 acres each. These can be secured by any male settler over 18 years of age. In most cases such

grants are some distance from railways and markets. Land of excellent quality, and near to good markets can be bought at from 10/- to 40/- per acre, and upon very easy terms as regards payment.

LABOUR.—There is a great demand for good farm hands, who can easily obtain employment at 20/- or 25/- per week, and board and lodging. Those who have not been accustomed to farm work can secure employment on farms at a somewhat lower rate of wages. At special seasons, such as harvest time, much higher wages may be obtained. At certain seasons of the year carpenters, builders, &c., are in demand, but artisans as such are not advised to go out in large numbers.

The following is cut from one of the London Daily Papers :—

"LABOURERS WANTED FOR MANITOBA.—The Hon. Thomas Greenway, Premier of Manitoba, has instructed Mr. McMillan, the agent in England of the Manitoba Government, to make every possible effort to induce Agricultural labourers to go to Manitoba next year. During the year just closing the grain crop in Manitoba has been unprecedentedly large, and as the acreage under crop has also increased considerably, it appears that farmers were unable to gather the harvest as quickly as desired. Whilst farm labourers get from £4 to £5 per month, and board and lodging, working the year round, at special seasons, such as hay-making and harvest time, they are paid as much as £7 to £8 per month. During the last three years the demand for men has steadily increased, owing to the much larger acreage under crop, and the Manitoba Government has decided to do everything possible to meet this demand in future."

WOMEN are always in great request. Respectable girls can obtain comfortable situations as waitresses in boarding houses, helps, &c., at high wages. The demand is never satisfied, largely on account of the fact that after arrival in the country women are so soon married.

GO TO MANITOBA and share in its prosperity. Any time between March and September is a good time to go.

HOW TO GO.—If you have no friends at any particular point in that country, take a Through Ticket to Winnipeg, *via* a Steamship Line running direct to Canada. If you have friends there, book to the nearest station to them. The cost of a Ticket from Liverpool to Winnipeg (the capital of Manitoba), *via* Quebec, is—

Steerage £6 9s. 4d.

Second Cabin ... £8 15s. 4d.

These rates are subject to change. Intending settlers should get their Tickets from the nearest Steamship Ticket Agent, and book direct to destination.

WHAT TO DO.—When passing through Liverpool to the steamer call at the Manitoba Government Offices, 33, James Street (near the landing stage), and see Mr. A. J. McMillan, the Agent in charge. He can give you much useful information. There is a magnificent collection of Manitoba products in this Office.

On arrival in Winnipeg call at the Intelligence Office of the Manitoba Government, 688, Main Street (near the Station), and see Mr. A. Smith, the Agent in charge. He can help you in many ways.

Handbooks, Maps and Pamphlets, published by the Government of Manitoba, can be obtained of many Steamship Agents throughout the country, or from the Government Office, Liverpool.

OPINIONS OF VISITORS.

THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA says:

"From its geographical position and its peculiar characteristics, Manitoba may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister Provinces which span the Continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific."

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, at one time Governor-General of Canada, after a prolonged visit to Manitoba, said:

"Nowhere can you find a situation whose natural advantages promise so great a future as that which seems ensured to Manitoba and to Winnipeg, the heart city of our Dominion."

"The measureless meadows which commence here stretch without interruption of their good soil westward to your boundary. The province is a green sea over which the summer winds pass in waves of rich grasses and flowers, and on this vast extent it is only as yet here and there that a yellow patch shows some gigantic wheat-field There was not one person who had manfully faced the first difficulties—always far less than those to be encountered in the older provinces—but said that he was getting on well, and he was glad he had come, and he generally added that he believed his bit of the country must be the best, and that he only wished his friends could have the same good fortune, for his expectations were more than realized. It is well to remember that the men who will succeed here, as in every young community, are usually the able-bodied."

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, who has several times visited Manitoba, expresses himself thus:

"During the past few days I have had some opportunity of observing the rich abundance of the grain crop, many farms wearing a thriving aspect very cheering to contemplate, and very instructive to a visitor wishing to understand the fertility of this region As for those who have the opportunity of travelling for themselves through this country, they ought to be able to speak with no uncertain sound of its splendid capabilities; and a good illustration of this may be found in the valuable and impartial reports of the farmer delegates last year."

THE EARL OF FINGALL writes on December 29th, 1891:

"Manitoba appeared to me a fine country where a good man should be able to get on well, either on the land or in a professional career, and, with very few exceptions, those whom I met assured me that they were glad they had come out and would not wish to return."

LORD ELPHINSTONE, of Carberry Tower, Musselburgh, Scotland, writing on December 31st, 1891, gives the following opinion:

"As a field for emigration, no country can be better suited, the land, owing to the absence of timber, being ready for cultivation; but in common with other countries farming in Manitoba is no royal road to fortune. To succeed, a man must be prepared to work, and to work hard; if not, he had better stop at home."

The following is an extract from a letter from **SIR GEO. BADEN-POWELL**, K.C.M.G., M.P.:

"Everyone knows that the soil and climate of Manitoba produce grain crops in greater abundance than any other equal area of the world's surface. Without doubt it is a country which can easily rival and surpass the very best portions of Northern

Europe, where, with colder summers, but not less rigorous winters, the human race has prospered so well, both physically and commercially The happy, if terse advice of the American Senator to the young men of the Eastern States, 'Go West,' may well be repeated in the 'old country' to all our surplus people who wish to emigrate, for they will find work and energy meet with their due reward under the old flag in the West of Canada in general, and in Manitoba in particular."

Colonel C. E. HOWARD VINCENT, C.B., M.P., London,
who visited Canada last year, writes :

"I can say, without the slightest hesitation, that the field open to Britons in Manitoba is without parallel on the globe. It only wants men and capital to become the granary of the Empire If I were 20 years younger, and had to earn my own living, nothing would keep me on this side of the Atlantic, for it is certain that, with decent ability, energy, and sobriety, a prosperous future would be attainable under the same flag, under the same laws, and under the same institutions in the great Dominion of Canada, the golden Province of Manitoba."

JAMES RANKIN, Esq., M.P. for Leominster, says :

"I believe Manitoba to be one of the finest openings in the world for the industrious farm labourer, or small farmer; but I do not regard it as a country particularly well adapted to large farming where labour has to be hired."

W. H. LONG, Esq., M.P., Secretary to the Local Government Board, referring to his visit to Manitoba, says :

"I saw and admired the splendid agricultural character of the country, and I have no doubt that it has a great future before it."

WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Esq., M.P., of Ballykilbeg, Ireland,
visited Manitoba in 1891, and is thus reported :

"When I go home, I will do all I can to tell the farmers of Ireland of the great and glorious land beyond the sea. Nowhere in the world have I seen such fields of golden grain as in the British North-West Territories."

Mr. MICHAEL DAVITT spent some time in Manitoba in 1891,
He says :

"I have travelled twice between Winnipeg and Vancouver, and have visited a good many parts of Manitoba, the Territories, and British Columbia, and I have seen evidence everywhere of growing communities, of industrial activity, which convinces me that what has been written or said about the progress of the country falls far short of the reality. I have met men among your settlers representing every nationality of Europe, and from one and all I have heard expressions of contentment and hope. Everyone seems to be imbued with confidence in the future of his adopted country."

The Rev. SAMUEL PEARSON, M.A., of Manchester, writes
as follows, in the "Christian World" of October 22nd,
1891:

"Land hunger can hardly exist here. Land fills the eye, the mind, the press, the ambition of young men, the projects of railways, the policies of statesmen. At Winnipeg I was told many times, 'We have the finest belt of wheat-growing country in the world;' and though I have seen the golden cornfields of Roumania and Bulgaria, yet as I saw the finest harvest that this new world has ever known, I could well believe it. The evidence was before me in innumerable sheaves and stacks of wheat stretching as far as the eye could reach. Some of this land yields easily from thirty to thirty-five bushels to the acre; and it will this year put the finest bread on what otherwise might have been the famished tables of England and Europe."

Professor SHELDON, of Sheen, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, a leading authority on agricultural matters, writing in January, 1892, says:

"I have seen something of the United States from Dakota to Texas, from Massachusetts to Illinois. Two years ago I made a special inspection of a vast property in Mexico, a property that was highly recommended for colonization purposes, but nowhere in all the vast tracts of country over which I passed have I seen a soil equal to that of the great Red River Valley in Manitoba for wheat-raising purposes.

"There are millions of acres of this land awaiting emigrants: land that will make them rich in a few years if they will attend to it."

Professor FREAM, of Downton Agricultural College, Salisbury, says:

"Men who go out there determined to work, will, as the years roll on, find themselves in a much better position than they can hope to secure in the old country, and when the time comes for them to enjoy a well-earned rest in their declining years, they will find that they have got the means to enable them to do so. And the children who are born and bred in the happy prairie homes, who will see around them on every side the triumph of man's industry, who are reared in the bracing atmosphere of a northern sky, they cannot fail to be healthy and vigorous."

Professor PRIMROSE McCONNELL, B.Sc., a well-known writer on Agricultural matters in "the old country," visited Manitoba a year ago. In an article in the "Agricultural Gazette" of November 23rd, 1891, he says:

"The immense harvest yielded this year throughout the north-west territories of Canada is drawing the eyes of the whole

civilized world to the farming capabilities of the 'boundless prairie.'

"Modern steamships, railways, telegraphs, etc., have literally annihilated time and space, and emigrating to Canada now-a-days is of no greater account than was the immigrating of us Scotchmen to England ten years ago.

"But before summing up let it be noted that every man who goes out there is working for himself and his family alone. If he is not the absolute owner of his farm to begin with, at least he is gaining that end by yearly instalments, and thus the 'earth hunger,' which is common to us all, can be appeased. He is practically rent free, taxes are light, and no man shares the value of any improvement he makes on his land, and, if he understands farming, he is sure to 'make his pile.'"

Extracts from Reports of the Farmers' Delegates.

Mr. ARTHUR DANIEL, of 172, Dereham Road, Norwich:

"One is struck with the conviction that there is in Canada a wide field open to all who are willing to avail themselves of the opportunity offered—whether it is the farm labourer possessing nothing more than his pair of hands, after his passage out has been paid for him, or the capitalist with several thousand pounds to invest. Both can readily find employment—the one for his labour, the other for his cash—in this vast territory, extending some 3,000 miles from east to west, and 1,500 from north to south."

Mr. WILLIAM EDWARDS, of Ruthin, Wales:

"For the hardworking farmers of Wales, with small capital, and two or three growing lads, there is a grand opening, with a certainty of success and independency; health and unforeseen accidents permitting."

Colonel FRANCIS FANE, of Fulbeck Hall, Grantham:

"A small farmer or labouring man, with one or two boys ranging from 12 to 16, and girls of the same stamp, could find occupation, and be sure of a competency hereafter, wherever he went, but he would, perhaps, have a better opening in Manitoba and the north-west."

Mr. G. HUTCHINSON, of Brougham Castle, Penrith:

"The farmer who has made up his mind to leave his native land to seek a home on Canadian soil will find in either Manitoba or the old provinces plenty of scope for his energies. He will have the advantage of being nearer England than in any of her other Colonies, and will go to a land of immense mineral as well as agricultural resources, yet to be developed, a land that has a great future before it."

Mr. ROBERT PITT, of Ilminster:

"I have endeavoured to describe the state of things in Manitoba and the north-west, which is, undoubtedly, the country for an English labourer to go to. If he has but eight or nine pounds he can pay his passage, and, by arriving out there at seeding or harvest time, he can be assured of work from that moment at a figure which will vary according to his competence; and if he will only keep himself to himself and keep his eyes about him, he is safe to be a landlord in three years, and an established man for life."

Mr. WM. SCOTSON, Mossley Hill, near Liverpool:

"I can safely say that, in my opinion, there are homes and independence in these vast regions for thousands in at least three conditions of persons, viz.: the young of both sexes, who can get employment at good wages, provided they are willing to make themselves useful as labourers and servants, with an excellent chance of winning homes and homesteads for themselves; and, secondly, for the small farmer with a little capital, who can here

use his strength, intelligence, and small means to greater advantage than perhaps anywhere else in the world, both to himself and to the country of his adoption; in the case of his richer brethren, though they may not need to win a livelihood for themselves, the openings for settling sons and daughters advantageously are not to be despised."

Mr. HY. SIMMONS, of Bearwood Farm, Wokingham :

"The man with only £100 would find homesteads ready to be entered on in many parts of Manitoba and other parts hereinbefore described; and the man with larger means can find there also any quantity of land, either for corn-growing or ranching, that with industry and good management will soon make him happy and independent."

Mr. J. T. WOOD, The Court, Halewood, Lancashire :

"It is impossible to imagine a people more sanguine of their success, and the future of their country, than are the Manitobans. All interviewed, of whatever nationality, were unanimous in declaring their preference for Manitoba over Quebec, Ontario, England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, or whatever country they happened to hail from, and were equally emphatic in their disinclination to return, except to visit friends and relatives; whilst they are robust, independent, and happy."

Mr. GEO. BROWN, of Watten Mains, Caithness, Scotland :

"From what has been written, it may be inferred which parts I consider the most favoured and suitable for the various degrees of the tillers of the soil. I can only add that no man will regret going to Canada to begin life there, provided he makes up his mind to work, and exercises ordinary caution. And I conclude by giving it the highest praise a man can give—viz., were it possible for me to break all the ties and change the responsibilities which surround me here, I would go to Canada and stay there."

Mr. JOHN SPIER, Newton Farm, Newton, Glasgow :

"Farmers with a few hundred pounds can make a very easy start as owners in any part of the North-West, on a farm four or five times the size of what they would be able to find capital for as tenants in the old country, and at the end of a few years they may have it in good working order and free of debt. Farm servants with a few pounds by them—more than will take themselves and their families out and keep them for from six months to a year—can also do very well, and all such, by frugality and perseverance, may very soon immensely improve their position. All who are able to pay for good lands near a railway, I would advise to do so, rather than go farther back and get it free."

Major STEPHENSON, Knockbrack, Goshaden, Londonderry, Ireland :

"The great features of Manitoba are excellent lands, free for homesteading, or at a reasonable price, very moderate taxes—I may say almost none. This province is peculiarly well adapted for young men with but small (or no) capital, strong hearts, and willing hands, even though they have been reared amidst the comforts of an English home. They must, however, be steady and industrious. Men of the small farmer class, with large families, some of whom have reached years of maturity will, if they have a little capital, and they are ready to take advice from older settlers, do very well here; they can either homestead, or, if they desire, purchase a quarter section with a house and stable on it, get to work there, and homestead or purchase for their sons as they reach a proper age. Young men of the agricultural labouring class can easily procure homesteads, and by working out part of their time, and on their homesteads when possible, can readily make themselves independent. About all the towns there is abundance of employment for female labour, and domestic servants receive excellent wages and are well treated."

